

at the University of St. Francis to equip high school and college students with the tools necessary to defend life in the public space. Cathie was also essential in helping mobilize Northeast Indiana's contingent to attend the annual National March for Life in Washington, D.C. One of the highlights of my time in Congress was being joined on stage by Cathie at the 2017 March as Vice President Mike Pence gave one of the most forceful defenses for life ever.

Beyond her professional accolades and achievements, of which there are many, Cathie is one of the kindest, most genuine, and dutiful people I have ever known. I am proud to call her a friend of many years and wish her Godspeed as she enters a new chapter of her life. This document serves as a testament to Cathie's career and character, and an appeal to future generations—that they be inspired by Cathie to carry on the fight for life in the years and decades to come.

#### HONORING FORMER JUSTICE OF THE PEACE TERESA VERA PEREZ

#### HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 10, 2022*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Teresa Vera Perez of Concepcion, Texas, who dedicated her life to serving the people of Duval County.

Mrs. Perez was born on November 25, 1933, to Saturnino Vera and Francisca Saenz Vera. At the age of 18, she married Mr. Asildo Lopez Perez with whom she shared a life for 57 years. During this time, they raised five children together: Elena, Ester, Eloy, and twins Eduardo and Ernesto.

Mrs. Perez first ran for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 in 1977 and won, making her the first female Justice of the Peace in Duval County history. She served a total of three terms, becoming a lifelong member of the Texas Justices of the Peace and Constables Association and Chaplain for the South Texas Association of Justices of the Peace and Constables. In addition to her time serving as Justice of the Peace, Mrs. Perez also worked as a Nurse's Aide at the P&S Hospital, previously located in Alice, Texas. Following her 12 years as Justice of the Peace, she continued to serve as an Honorable Judge by joining couples in matrimony.

Mrs. Perez was an active member of the Duval County and the Concepcion communities throughout her lifetime. She proudly served as a Eucharistic Minister and member of the Immaculate Concepcion Catholic Church Altar and Rosary Society as well as the Guadalupana and the Fiesta Del Rancho Committee. She was also crowned Queen of the Elderly Nutrition program Twice. In 1993, at the age of 60 years old, she obtained her GED diploma in Alice, Texas. Mrs. Perez passed away on January 23, 2014. Although she is no longer with us, her memory remains eternal.

Madam Speaker, I stand here today to acknowledge the countless achievements and charitable acts of Mrs. Teresa Vera Perez. She devoted her life to the betterment of her community and her legacy will be no doubt be

remembered by all who knew her. Her general love for life, her family, the Lord, and commitment to her neighbors is admirable. May she rest in peace.

#### HONORING DR. THEODORE JACKSON VIARS

#### HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 10, 2022*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. Theodore Jackson (Ted) Viars, who passed away on December 13, 2021 at the age of 87. Dr. Viars was a longtime educator in western Virginia who positively impacted generations of students.

Theodore Viars was born on December 26, 1933 in Radford, Virginia. His parents were Robert and Louise Viars. He was a student athlete throughout his time at Radford High School, from which he graduated in 1952, and the University of Virginia. At UVA, he earned a football scholarship and played varsity baseball while earning a place on the Dean's List, serving on the Student Council, and belonging to the Varsity Club and the SAE fraternity. He later earned a master's degree and a doctorate from Virginia Tech.

Education became Dr. Viars' mission. He began his career as a teacher and assistant principal at Pulaski High School from 1956 to 1960. Subsequently, he worked as principal at Clifton Forge from 1960 to 1963 before moving to Salem to become Glenvar High School's first principal. After Glenvar, he held a variety of roles with the Roanoke County Schools, including Director of Instruction, Assistant Superintendent, and Deputy Superintendent for Instruction. He retired from the school system in 1990 and taught as an Associate Professor of Education at Hollins College from 1991 to 1994.

Dr. Viars was a member of Central United Methodist Church in Salem for over 57 years and served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve.

Dr. Viars was preceded in death by his daughter, Kim Viars. He is survived by his wife, Johnsey; children, Kelly Viars Coudriet (Greg), Ted Viars II (Tracey), and Martin Viars (Sherry); grandchildren, Jackson Bradley, Kelsey Legra, Kayleigh Cox, Teddy III, Max, and Brock Viars; and great-grandchildren, Cayden and Roman Legra. I offer them my condolences on the loss of this committed lifelong educator.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF OLIN R. PICKENS

#### HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 10, 2022*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Mr. Olin R. Pickens who will celebrate his 100th birthday this month. I join his family, friends, and loved ones in celebrating his lifelong dedication to this country.

Olin Pickens was an infantryman assigned to the Army 805th Tank Destroyer Unit during

WWII before he was captured as a Prisoner of War. He was executing a mission to capture German field marshal Erwin Rommel in North Africa in 1943 when his unit was attacked by the Germans. His unit, along with three others, attempted to breach a German Blockade to reach Rommel. The soldiers understood this to be a suicide mission. On February 16, 1943, PFC Pickens was captured in Tunisia and spent 26 months as a POW. He escaped once, but was recaptured. In April of 1945, Pickens was finally released.

Pickens looks back on his time in the army with astounding bravery and resolve. I admire his tenacity and dedication to this country. It is because of men like Mr. Pickens that we celebrate the freedoms we enjoy every day, and for his service, I am grateful. It is a joy to wish him a happy 100th birthday.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE DISTRICT OF CO- LUMBIA HOME RULE ACT TO PERMIT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO TRANSMIT ACTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO CONGRESS IN ELECTRONIC FORM

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 10, 2022*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (HRA) to permit the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia to transmit legislation to Congress in the form of the Chairman's choosing, including in electronic form. This bill seeks to modernize the method D.C. legislation is transmitted to Congress for the congressional review period.

The HRA requires that D.C. legislation be transmitted to Congress for a congressional review period before the legislation can take effect. The legislation takes effect after a review period, unless a resolution of disapproval is enacted into law during the review period. While the HRA is silent on the method that the Chairman must use to transmit the legislation, House and Senate precedent require that the legislation be physically transmitted to the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate. Physical transmittal imposes costs in terms of time on the Council, the House and Senate Parliamentarians, the Speaker, the President of the Senate, the House Clerk, the Senate Secretary, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. When the HRA was enacted in 1973, email did not exist.

The Council engages in a 12-step process to comply with the physical transmittal requirement:

Step 1: Write individualized cover letters.

Step 2: The Chairman physically signs the cover letters.

Step 3: Arrange a pick-up time of the legislation and cover letters from the Chairman.

Step 4: Print two copies of the bill and two copies of the committee report to deliver to the Speaker and to the President of the Senate.

Step 5: Arrange a time for delivery to the Speaker's office.